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ABSTRACT

The selections contained in this annotated bibliography were chosen with the assumption that primary-level children often prefer having read to them more complex books than the picture books with simple text that they are able to read themselves. Books listed which are suitable for reading aloud to children contain, to some extent, an element of suspense, but have concepts and language simple enough for ready understanding. (Author/KS)

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SUSPENSE BOOKS TO READ TO PRIMARY CHILDREN

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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FOREWORD

This bibliography is a list of books which have, to some extent, an element of suspense but which contain concepts and language simple enough so that they can be successfully read to Primary children.

It is based on my observation that, after about the middle of the first grade, Primary children prefer having books read to them occasionally which are more meaty and complex than the picture books with simple text generally considered Primary fare. It is unlikely that very many of the books on the list would be read by the average Primary child on his own.

The children in my experience looked forward eagerly to longer books read as continued stories and particularly to those with an element of mystery and/or suspense. This bibliography is a tiny percentage of the books of this type which are available. It is comprised only of the books which I was able to examine personally at this time.

SUSPENSE BOOKS TO READ TO PRIMARY CHILDREN

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN, Henry Bamman & Robert Whitehead, Beckley-Cardy, 1963. A forest fire in the Rocky Mountains brings smoke jumpers and adventure.

THE LOST URANIUM MINE, Henry Bamman & Robert Whitehead, Beckley-Cardy, 1964. An old miner is lost in a uranium mine in the Rocky Mountains.

THE TIDE WON'T WAIT, Laura Bannon, Albert Whitman, 1957. A mild suspense story about a young boy and girl in Nova Scotia.

HOP-HIGH, THE GOAT, Laura Bannon, Bobbs-Merrill, 1960. A story about a little Navaho girl and her mischievous goat which gets into some real danger.

WHEN THE MOON IS NEW, Laura Bannon, Albert Whitman, 1953. A small Seminole girl is mystified by the happenings in her village.

PAWNEE, Thelma Harrington Bell, Viking Press, 1950. A small boy is continually being blamed for mischief caused by an indian brave because his parents think the brave is a doll.

LITTLE WITCH, Elizabeth Bennett, J. B. Lippencott, 1953, The nine year old daughter of a wicked witch longs with all her heart to be like other children.

TIZZ IS A COW PONY, Eliza Bialk, Children's Press, 1961. Tizz, a brave cow pony, shares some summer adventures with two city children.

TIZZ ON A PACK TRIP, Eliza Bialk, Children's Press, 1961. Tizz and the same two children share another adventure which features an avalanche.

THE MAGIC BALL FROM MARS, Carl L. Biemiller, Wm. Morrow, 1953. A boy suddenly becomes very important because he has been contacted by a man from Mars.

PETE THE PARRAKEET, Irma Simonton Black, Holiday House, 1954. Pete, a parrakeet, escapes and becomes lost in a thunderstorm.

TWO ON AN ISLAND, Bianca Bradbury, Houghton Mifflin, 1965. A brother and sister spend three days marooned alone on an island after their row boat drifted downstream.

NO FLYING IN THE HOUSE, Betty Brock, Harper and Row, 1970. The appearance of a talented three-inch-high talking dog named Gloria who seems to have total charge of the small girl with her is quite a mystery.

HIDE AND SEEK, Dorothy Clewes, Coward-McCann, 1960. Penny's day at the farm turns out differently than she expected.

THE BEARS ON HEMLOCK MOUNTAIN, Alice Dalgliesh, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952. When Jonathon gets lost on Hemlock Mountain he wonders whether the stories about the bears are true or not.

THE COURAGE OF SARAH NOBLE, Alice Dalgliesh, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954. The true story of a brave little settler in the early days of America.

COPPER-TOED BOOTS, Marguerite de Angeli, Doubleday Doran, 1938. A young boy pursues his dream of owning copper-toed boots. A number of small adventures are woven into the plot.

THE LAST LITTLE CAT, Meindert DeJong, Harper and Brothers, 1961. The adventures and perils of a kitten born in a dog kennel.

LAZY TOMMY PUMPKINHEAD, Wm. Pené DuBois, Harper and Row, 1966. A lazy boy who lives in an electric house has a bad day when a storm causes a power failure.

KINTU, A CONGO ADVENTURE, Elizabeth Enright, Farrar and Rinehart, 1935. A small African boy has a terrible secret. He is afraid of the jungle.

A TOAD FOR TUESDAY, Russell E. Erickson, Lothrop, Lee and Sheppard, 1974. A toad sets out on a winter day to visit his aunt in spite of warnings of danger.

WALTER THE LAZY MOUSE, Marjorie Flack, E. M. Hale, 1937. Never in the right place at the right time, Walter gets left behind when his family move away. Adventures follow as he tries to find them.

MCBROOM'S GHOST, Sid Fleischman, Grosset & Dunlap, 1971. The McBroom family try to figure out the cause of the ghostly sounds on their farm.

THE WISHING WINDOW, Hortense Flenner, Frederick A. Stokes, 1943. A wartime story of two homeless French children longing for the goodies in a bakery window.

PET OF THE MET, Lydia and Don Freeman, Viking Press, 1953. When a mouse who has a steady job turning pages at the opera suddenly decides to perform on the stage, he is joined by a cat who has decided to eat him.

THE INDEPENDENT BLUE BIRD, Lucy Gallup, Wm. Morrow, 1959. The adventures of a baby bird who falls out of the nest.

MY FATHER'S DRAGON, Ruth Stiles Gannett, Random House, 1948. A small boy and a cat set out on an adventure to rescue a flying dragon held captive on Wild Island.

THE TRAVELING FROG, V. M. Garshin, McGraw-Hill, 1965. A Russian classic about a daring frog who decides to fly south for the winter...by duck power.

CINDERS, Katherine Gibson, Longmans Green, 1939. The adventures of Cinderella's tiny coachman, who somehow missed being turned back into a mouse, as he finds a new life as one of the king's stableboys.

ELISABETH AND THE MARSH MYSTERY, Felice Holman, MacMillan, 1966. A mysterious sound coming from the marsh which has the neighbors guessing is finally solved by a girl and her father.

CHICKEN TEN-THOUSAND, Jacqueline Jackson, Little Brown, 1968. A heartwarming story about a chicken who breaks away from her empty life on an egg farm and finds fulfillment.

YOUNG COWBOY, Will James, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938. A young ranch boy wants nothing so much as to be a real cowboy.

BIG SUSAN, Elizabeth Orlon Jones, MacMillan, 1947. The dolls in the doll-house come alive each year on Christmas Eve. This year they decide to give their beloved owner a present.

PUPPIES FOR KEEPS, Dorothy P. Lathrop, MacMillan, 1943. The family has to sell some of the litter of puppies no matter how much it hurts. Very special illustrations.

LITTLE PEAR, Eleanor Frances Lattimore, Harcourt Brace, 1931. A small Chinese boy has an adventure but his family thinks he has run away.

PEACH BLOSSOM, Eleanor Frances Lattimore, Harcourt Brace, 1943. A Little Chinese girl's life is complicated by a war in China.

THE TWO HELENS, Eleanor Frances Lattimore, Wm. Morrow, 1967. The discovery of an impressive white mansion near their summer house in Maine introduces a note of mystery into the lives of three children.

SPOOK, Jane Little, Atheneum, 1966. A witch who is allergic to cats has instead a dog name Spook who doesn't care much for the job.

THE LITTLE BROWN HEN, Patricia Miles Marin, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1960. Not only is Willie's pet hen missing but he has no present for his mother's birthday tomorrow.

A PONY CALLED LIGHTENING, Miriam E. Mason, MacMillan 1948. A pony who loves to race outruns even the lightening and becomes a hero.

BROOMTAIL BROTHER OF LIGHTENING, Miriam E. Mason, MacMillan, 1954. A wild pony has a very exciting life, especially when his herd is caught by indians.

FOX AND THE FIRE, Miska Miles, Little Brown, 1966. A fox huddles with the other animals as the forest is destroyed by fire.

MISSISSIPPI POSSUM, Miska Miles, Little Brown, 1965. A little possum is one the refugees when the river floods.

TEACHER'S PET, Miska Miles, Little Brown, 1966. A different kind of suspense as the daughter of a migrant worker tries to make friends in a new school.

SEECATCH: A STORY OF A FUR SEAL, Rutheford Montgomery, Ginn, 1955. The adventures of a seal fighting to stay alive on the coast of Alaska.

THE WARMHEARTED POLAR BEAR, Robert Murphy, Little Brown, 1955. A polar bear learns to be a pet to some iced-in humans but then they leave him when the ice breaks.

SAM, BANGS AND MOONSHINE, Evaline Ness, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1966. A fisherman's daughter learns the difference between dreams and reality when her imagination nearly causes a disaster.

THEODORE, Edward Ormondroyd, Parnassus Press, 1966. A teddy bear has a terrifying experience when his owner doesn't recognize him after he goes through the washing machine.

THE FIRST BOW AND ARROW, Chester Osborne, Wilcox and Follett, 1951. Adventures of a young boy set in prehistoric times.

THE SQUIRREL WIFE, Philippa Pearce, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1972. A tale about little green people written in the tradition of folklore.

WHITEY AND THE WILD HORSE, Glen Rounds, Holiday House, 1958. A boy and girl decide to capture and tame a wild horse.

THE AMIABLE GIANT, Louis Slobodkin, Vanguard Press, 1955. A giant trying to befriend the villagers is continually thwarted by a local wicked wizard.

TREASURE ISLAND, Robert Lewis Stevenson abridged by Johanna Johnston, Doubleday, 1960. A beautifully abridged and illustrated version of the classic story of a boy's adventures with pirates.

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Scott Foresman, . Orphaned children live in a boxcar as they hide from what they imagine to be an unfriendly grandfather.

SURPRISE ISLAND, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Scott Foresman, 1949. The boxcar children have a surprising summer vacation.

MIKES'S MYSTERY, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Albert Whitman, 1960. The boxcar children have an adventure at Mystery Ranch.

SNOWBOUND MYSTERY, Gertrude Chandler Warner, Albert Whitman, 1968. The boxcar children are snowbound in the woods.

The following is a list of Boxcar children books by Gertrude Chandler Warner which I was unable to locate:

THE YELLOW HOUSE MYSTERY	HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY
MYSTERY RANCH	TREEHOUSE MYSTERY
BLUE BAY MYSTERY	BICYCLE MYSTERY
THE WOODSHED MYSTERY	MYSTERY IN THE SAND
THE LIGHTHOUSE MYSTERY	MYSTERY BEHIND THE WALL
MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY	BUS STATION MYSTERY
SCHOOLHOUSE MYSTERY	CABOOSE MYSTERY

CHARLOTTE'S WEB, E. B. White, Harper Brothers, 1952. A beautiful spider saves the life of her friend, a small white pig.

STUART LITTLE, E. B. White, Harper & Row, 1945. Stuart, a mouse, is a member of a New York family...of humans. His adventurous spirit leads him into many dangerous and exciting adventures.

FARMER BOY, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Harper Brothers, 1937. To Almanzo, a nine-year-old New York State farm boy, every day is an adventure. Set in 1868.

THE ADVENTURES OF BENJAMIN PINK, Garth Williams, Harper Brothers, 1951. Benjamin Pink, a sea-going rabbit, is marooned on an island with some very interesting creatures.

I was unable to locate any of the Little Family Series by Betty MacDonald, but I recommend them very highly. They are about little people who live in the walls of big people's houses. They are like big people in everyway except that they have lovely tails, and are no more than about six inches tall. The Little's live in the walls of the Bigg family's house and their lives are dangerous and adventurous. Children of all ages love them.